Recognize the problem
Termites are social insects that live in groups called colonies. They mostly feed on dead plant material such as wood and leaf litter. To confirm their presence, pull out the affected plant and look for live termites and tunnels on the roots and lower stem. Sometimes you can tell that there are termites present because of the soil mound they form around the base of the plant. The plant roots and stems may be totally eaten out and filled with soil. Termites travel up through the roots into the trunk and branches, eventually disrupting the movement of food and water up the plant. This leads to death of the plant.

Background
Termites start attacking in an area of dead wood created by pruning or other damage. Small cracks or channels made by other insects such as wood-boring beetles may allow termites to enter later. Weak, wounded plants are easily attacked unlike strong, well-built plants. Termites are always found in the mango orchard. They feed on decomposing woody material.

Management
Non-chemical control
• Do not injure the plants as this may provide easy entry routes for termites.
• Ensure plants are not sick or water stressed.
• Whitewash the trunks with milk of lime.
• Get rid of affected plants and destroy the termites.
• Avoid making heaps of pruned materials or dead trees in the orchard.
Chemical control
• Use Chlorpyrifos, Fipronil and Imidacloprid.

When using a pesticide, always wear protective clothing and follow the instructions on the product label, such as dosage, timing of application, and pre-harvest interval.

Scientific name(s) > **Macrotermes spp.**

The recommendations in this factsheet are relevant to: many countries where this pest or problem is present.